

To Whom It May Concern:

I have had a chance to review the plan and visit with river communities along the river as well as visit with tourist who visit our area to recreate on the river, I want to write to express my concern for the economic impact this plan could have on river towns along the river.

A few concerns are listed below....

Off-limits for fishing areas from October - ? - these impacts on economic development numbers of visitors as well as their expenditures would definitely impact a small community.

The commercial fishing fees and permits - I don't understand why you would charge those people more fees. Why is that necessary and where would those fees go? The history of river towns such as Lansing, Harpers Ferry and New Albin once relied on commercial fishing. The additional fees and permits will only hinder their ability to make a living as a commercial fisherman.

Restricted electric troll areas - I understand in the kains area that you would like to restrict other motor crafts. A walking/hiking trail is great. But our organization is working on biking and hiking trails along the Mississippi River. We have secured over \$1.4 million for that construction of the Mississippi River Bike Trail from New Albin to Lansing. ACED will continue these efforts to continue the trail from Lansing to Harpers Ferry.

I don't mind the idea of collecting fees but I want those fees to go directly back to those areas inwhich they were taken and not given to the general fund.

Small improvements have been made in New Albin, Harpers Ferry, but I would like to recommend that those improvements continue.

I want to get the point across that New Albin, Lansing, Harpers Ferry and more smaller towns along the river are still in existence due to the tourism/visitors that come to enjoy the Mississippi River. The large crafts as well as the fishing tournaments are all important component of their livelihood. The Mississippi River is the third most visited attraction in the United States. If some of your plans go into effect, those numbers will drop and the communities along the river will die.

Please contact me with any questions. Thank you for your time.

Rachelle Howe, Executive Director
Allamakee County Economic Development
101 West Main
Waukon, IA 52172
(563) 568-2624
(800) 824-1424
(563) 568-6990 (fax)
www.allamakeecounty.com
www.visitiowa.org
